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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/749,205	12/27/2000	Hideki Shimomura	450100-02915	5280

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EXAMINER

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2655

DATE MAILED: 07/16/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<p align="center">Office Action Summary</p>	Application No. 09/749,205	Applicant(s) SHIMOMURA ET AL.	
	Examiner Jakieda R Jackson	Art Unit 2655	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of this (30) day period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 December 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. **Claims 1-11** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fukui et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,918,222).

Regarding **claims 1, 10 and 11**, Fukui discloses a conversation processing apparatus, method and recording medium for holding a conversation with a user, comprising:

first storage means for storing a plurality of pieces of first information concerning a plurality of topics (figure 94 with column 46, lines 15-16);

second storage means for storing (grasping) second information concerning a present topic being discussed (current status of demander interacting with the information disclosing apparatus; column 20, lines 46-51 with column 35, lines 14-16);

determining means for determining whether to change the topic (emotion check; column 52, lines 18-19);

selection means for selecting, when said determining means determines to change the topic (emotion check indicates user reaction to change topic; column 52,

lines 16-25), a new topic to change to from among the topics stored in said first storage means (column 52, lines 16-49); and

changing means for reading the first information concerning the topic selected by said selection means from said first storage means (figure 94) and for changing the topic by storing the read information in said second storage means (column 52, lines 16-49).

Regarding **claim 2**, Fukui discloses a conversation processing apparatus, method and recording medium, further comprising:

third storage means for storing a topic which has been discussed with the user in a history (history storage unit; column 40, lines 48-63);

wherein said selection means selects, as the new topic, a topic other than those stored in the history in said third storage means (information added with new information; column 34, lines 2-5 with column 35, lines 14-24).

Regarding **claim 3**, Fukui discloses a conversation processing apparatus, method and recording medium, wherein, when said determination means determines to change the topic in response to the change of topic introduced by the user (column 52, lines 19-25 and 47-49), said selection means selects a topic which is the most closely related (map to lecture meeting) to the topic introduced by the user from among the topics (show me the map) stored in said first storage means (column 52, lines 47-49).

Regarding **claim 4**, Fukui discloses a conversation processing apparatus, method and recording medium, wherein:

the first information (schedule) and the second information (conference) include attributes which are respectively associated therewith (figure 93);

said selection means selects the new topic (extracts interest information; column 35, lines 53-61) by computing a value based on association between the attributes of each piece of the first information (current information) and the attributes of the second information (history information) and selecting the first information with the greatest value as the new topic (desired information estimated with higher precision; column 35, lines 14-24).

Regarding **claim 5**, Fukui discloses a conversation processing apparatus, method and recording medium, wherein the attributes include at least one of a category (figure 93) or a time (figure 24 with column 28, lines 14-16).

Regarding **claim 6**, Fukui discloses a conversation processing apparatus, method and recording medium, wherein the value based on the association between the attributes of the first information and the attributes of the second information (keywords) is stored in the form of a table (figure 8), said table being updated (column 22, lines 38-41 and column 38, lines 64-67).

Regarding **claim 7**, Fukui discloses a conversation processing apparatus, method and recording medium, wherein, when selecting the new topic using the table (table), said selection means weights the value in the table for the first information (current information) having the same attributes as those of the second information (history information) and uses the weighted table (table; column 35, lines 14-24),

thereby selecting the new topic (extracts interest information; column 35, lines 53-61 with column 49, lines 51-67 and column 50, lines 50-53).

Regarding **claim 8**, Fukui discloses a conversation processing apparatus, method and recording medium, wherein the conversation (interactive operations) is held orally (speech; column 46, lines 13-15)

Regarding **claim 9**, Fukui discloses a conversation processing apparatus, method and recording medium, wherein said conversation processing apparatus (speech medium) is included in a robot (a computer; column 12, lines 1-2).

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Ito et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,564,244) discloses a system for chat network search notifying user of changed-status chat network meeting user-tailored input predetermined parameters relating to search preferences.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jakieda R Jackson whose telephone number is 703.305.5593. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Doris To can be reached on 703. 305.4827. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-0206.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JRJ
July 1, 2004

W. R. YOUNG
PRIMARY EXAMINER